

3 1761 11552125 4

ns Pêches
et Océans

Important Message for All Boatowners

Why nautical
charts are
your best
safe navigation



Government

CA 1
FS 200
-Z015

Feature

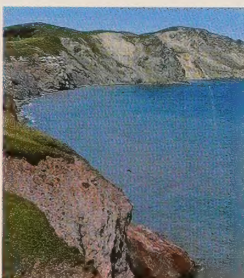
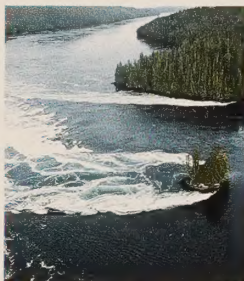
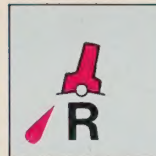


Chart Symbol



Description

Starboard hand buoy. Charts give the location and type of all buoys* and beacons. When visibility is poor, knowing the location of navigational aids may be all that keeps you from getting lost.

Place for which tabulated tidal stream data are given. Tidal streams may be strong enough to affect navigation. Some charts indicate current rates and directions, or else refer boaters to appropriate tide and current tables.

Cliffy coast. Nautical charts give detailed descriptions of coastline that can help boaters find safe havens in foul weather, or establish landing sites when planning trips into unknown areas.

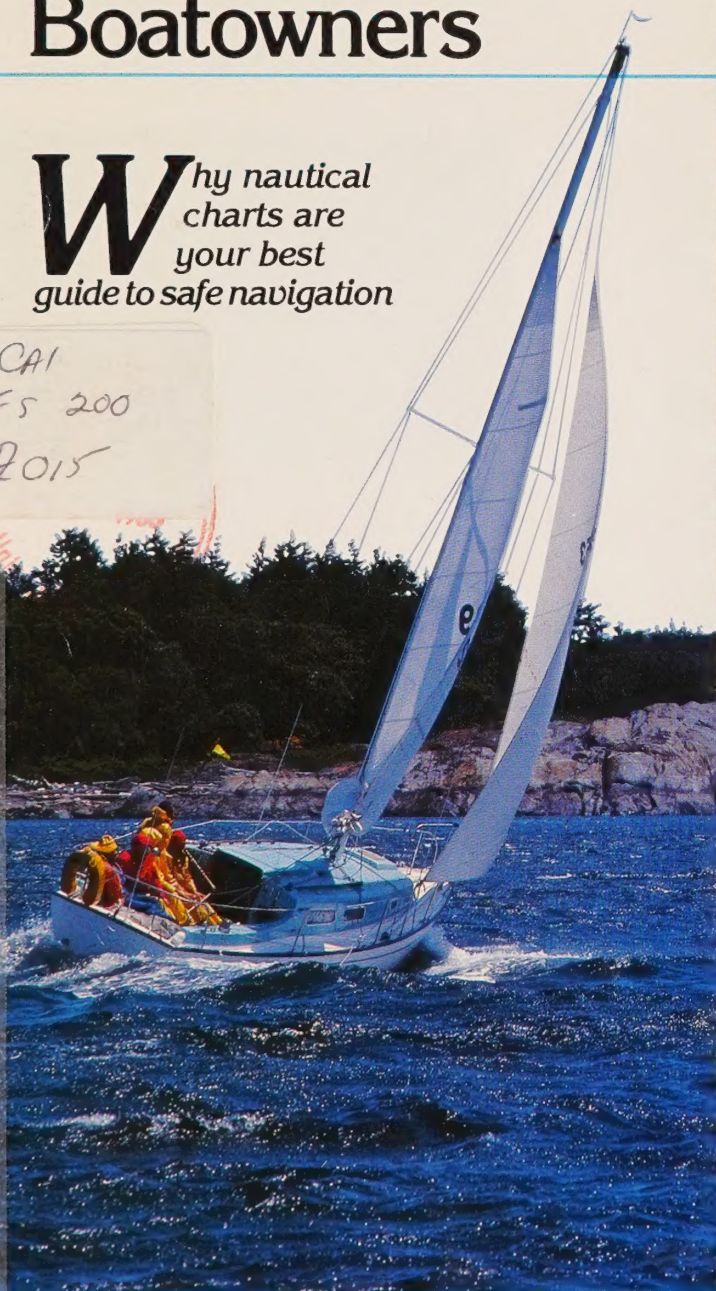
*Some privately placed buoys may not appear on charts.



An Important Message for All Boatowners

Why nautical
charts are
your best
guide to safe navigation

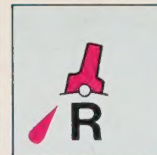
CAI
FS 200
-2015



Feature

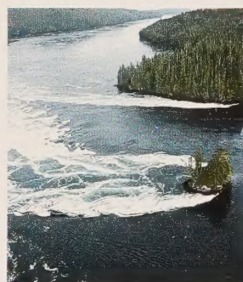


Chart Symbol

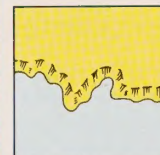
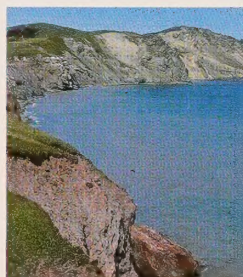


Description

Starboard hand buoy. Charts give the location and type of all buoys* and beacons. When visibility is poor, knowing the location of navigational aids may be all that keeps you from getting lost.



Place for which tabulated tidal stream data are given. Tidal streams may be strong enough to affect navigation. Some charts indicate current rates and directions, or else refer boaters to appropriate tide and current tables.



Cliffy coast. Nautical charts give detailed descriptions of coastline that can help boaters find safe havens in foul weather, or establish landing sites when planning trips into unknown areas.

*Some privately placed buoys may not appear on charts.

Up-to-date nautical charts can save you embarrassment, can save your boat, and may even save your life.

No matter what size boat you own, or where you cruise, it pays to carry up-to-date nautical charts, and to learn how to use them.

Every year, the Canadian Coast Guard rescues hundreds of boaters whose vessels have grounded, or who have become lost or disoriented. They estimate that each year there are thousands of other groundings, accidents, and cases of lost boaters that go unreported.

Nautical charts are one of your best safeguards against such mishaps. They are the only reliable map when you venture into new territory; they are indispensable for plotting courses; and they may be your only warning of unseen hazards.

Insurance companies like them, too.

Nautical charts are legal documents and are frequently cited as evidence in court. If your boat is ever in an accident and you make an insurance claim, one of the first things the adjuster will want to know is whether or not you had up-to-date charts on board.

Even if you never plan to venture beyond your local harbour or lake, nautical charts provide all kinds of information that will help to make your boating more interesting, safer, and more fun. For instance, the inner harbour of a seaport may have designated shipping lanes, restricted anchoring zones, or various navigational aids that you may not know about or understand, even if you have been boating there for years.

Where to buy nautical charts

Catalogues of all nautical charts and related publications, by region, are available upon request from authorized dealers listed therein, or directly from:

Hydrographic Chart Distribution Office
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
1675 Russell Road, P.O. Box 8080
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H6

Canadian Hydrographic Service
Chart Sales and Distribution Office
Institute of Ocean Sciences
9860 West Saanich Road
P.O. Box 6000
Sidney, B.C. V8L 4B2

Canada Centre for Inland Waters
867 Lakeshore Road
P.O. Box 5050
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

How many of these chart symbols do you recognize?

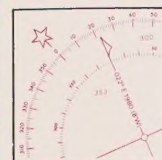
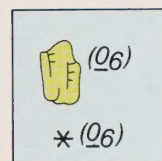
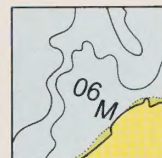
It takes only a little instruction to learn how to read nautical charts. Chart 1, available from your chart dealer, is a complete guide to all symbols used on nautical charts. Further instruction is available from your local chapter of the Canadian Power Squadron, and from many private sailing schools and yacht clubs.

Here's how just a few common features appear on nautical charts, and why it helps you to know about them:

Feature



Chart Symbol



Description

Depth 0.6 metres at lowest tide. Muddy bottom. Knowing water depths can prevent accidental groundings. Information on bottom contours helps locate good fishing spots.

Rock which covers and uncovers according to the stage of the tide. Nautical charts give the exact location of rocks and other submerged hazards. Be sure to use tide tables with your chart.

Setting a course. Compass Roses on charts indicate local magnetic variations from true north, helping boaters to plot their courses accurately.

What scale is best?

The Canadian Hydrographic Service publishes charts in a wide range of scales, from 1:10,000 to 1:150,000. Large scales (1:10,000) are used when a high degree of detail is desirable, as in busy ports, or places where navigation is particularly difficult. Smaller scale charts are enroute charts which offer less detail, but give an overview of a wider area.

A general rule for recreational boaters is to buy the largest scale chart published of any unfamiliar areas where you plan to go. That will ensure that you have the most detailed information available on shorelines, navigational aids, hazards, and other conditions.

However, if you plan to take a longer trip through open water, you can plot your course more easily on a smaller scale chart that covers large areas you will be sailing through.

Here's a rule about charts: Keep them up-to-date

Navigational hazards and other features can change dramatically over a period of years, or even days. The CHS keeps you abreast of those changes by publishing new chart editions containing the latest navigational data from recent surveys, and by regularly issuing reprints of current editions incorporating new information available to the date of printing.

It is important to carry only the most recent chart editions onboard your boat. Outdated charts are not only unsafe, but they are also invalid for settling marine accident claims.

How to update your charts

You can keep informed of new chart editions and keep your current charts up-to-date, by subscribing to "Notices to Mariners", published weekly by Transport Canada. "Notices to Mariners" announces the publication of new charts, new editions, and reprints, and lists any changes or additions to current charts. Each week, just check to see if your charts are listed, and make any necessary changes in pen and ink.

The CHS updates charts by hand, if necessary, to ensure they are up-to-date when they are sent to dealers. However, sometimes changes occur after charts have arrived at authorized dealers. To make sure your new chart is up-to-date when you buy it, compare the Notice to Mariner date stamp in the lower right hand corner against the date of publication in the lower left hand corner, and check the intervening issues of "Notices to Mariners" for any additions or changes.

Nautical charts are a remarkable value

Nautical charts cost only a few dollars, yet they give you the benefits of many months of field surveys, cartographic assembly, and rigorous quality control checks.

Here's a brief look at the steps that go into making a nautical chart:



- 1 Every chart begins with the data collected by one or more of the 180 vessels the CHS employs on hydrographic surveys. Field surveys are long and painstaking: in complex areas, it may take several weeks to survey one square mile.
- 2 The first stage in chart production is to identify the requirements of the new chart — what area is to be covered and at what scale? Cartographers prepare a rough copy of the chart format.
- 3 A source copy of the new chart is prepared. It acts as a reference index, containing all available data on the area as it exists on other charts, in files, and as computer data. The source data is assessed for accuracy, currency, and proper relation to chart size.
- 4 Borders, contours, lines of latitude and longitude, and survey monuments are plotted by hand, or by computers using digitized survey data. Source material is photomechanically reduced to scale and attached to the basic plot.



5 The source material is edited down to a usable quantity, and a compilation drawing is made. The compilation drawing is checked by quality control for accuracy, standards, and style.

6 The compilation drawing is sent to Navigation Information Section, where all aids to navigation are plotted on the chart. A nomenclature copy is also made and checked by federal and provincial committees on geographic names.



7 Negatives are manually or mechanically scribed for the four colours used to indicate shorelines and soundings, bathymetric contours, roads, and land contours. Alphanumeric information is added in black and purple overlays. A composite print goes to quality control for checking.

8 Completed negatives are combined to produce a colour proof. The proof is carefully reviewed for completeness, accuracy, and quality immediately prior to printing.

9 Following any necessary negative revisions, the plates are prepared and sent for printing. A few proofs are pulled for a final quality control check. If required, charts are updated by hand before being sent to authorized dealerships.



Receive "Notices to Mariners" Free

You can receive "Notices to Mariners" FREE simply by writing to:

Director General
Aids and Waterways
Canadian Coastguard
Transport Canada
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N7

© Minister of Supply and Services Canada 1985
Cat. No. FS23-70/1985E
ISBN 0-662-13974-7

Published by:
Communications Directorate
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

DFO/1206
Minister of Supply and Services
Canada 1985
Catalogue Number FS 23-70/1985E
ISBN 0-662-13974-7
Disponible en Français



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761115521254>

